

THE ANATOMY AND SURGERY OF HERNIA. By Leo Zimmerman, M.D., and Barry J. Anson, M.D. (Pp. x + 374; figs. 204. 76s. 6d.) Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins; London: Ballière, Tindall & Cox, 1953.

A SURGEON (Zimmerman) and an anatomist have joined forces to produce a book which will be of help to surgeons and of interest to anatomists.

The historical aspect is described in some detail, and it is of interest to note that the method of Marcy of Boston (high ligation of the inguinal hernial sac and suture of the transversalis fascia to the inguinal ligament) was first described by him in 1869, twenty years before Bassini published his series of cases and put the surgery of inguinal hernia on a rational footing. The operation described by Marcy is now performed very frequently.

Good clinical judgment is displayed in the short section on inguinal hernia in childhood and real practical help is given in the section on congenital diaphragmatic and hiatus hernia.

Throughout the book the theme is "the treatment of hernia is early surgical repair," and both authors have applied an enthusiasm which is infective and which should lead to better results from those who read and think about it. S. A. V.

BASIC ANATOMY. By G. A. G. Mitchell, O.B.E., T.D., M.B., Ch.M., D.Sc., and E. L. Patterson, M.D., Ch.B., B.Sc. (Pp. viii + 438; figs. 286. 45s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1954.

It is very pleasant to find a new book on human anatomy so interestingly written and so lavishly illustrated. The authors have deliberately set out to inform and stimulate the student at the start of a medical or dental career. They evidently delight in instructing the uninitiated, and even the more blasé student will find items here which stimulate and instruct. The brief historical account of the subject and the sections illustrating man's ancestry and place in geological time are strategically placed at the beginning of the book. The reader is at once made aware of the larger implications of the study of anatomy. The beautiful illustrations of nerve networks should delight all readers, although it must be said that the emphasis on the finer details of nerve morphology is out of proportion to the treatment of other and equally stimulating subjects. Some illustrations have been reproduced, no doubt on purpose, more than once, but it is quite unnecessary to reproduce a simple line diagram of the nasopharynx three times in twenty-five pages. A little editing here is called for. A glossary and a good index add to the usefulness of the book. An excellent book for the student about to start on the study of anatomy. W. R. M. M.

DEMONSTRATIONS OF OPERATIVE SURGERY: A Manual for General Practitioners, Medical Students and Nurses. By Hamilton Bailey, F.R.C.S., F.A.C.S., F.I.C.S., F.R.S.E. (Pp. xii + 387; figs. 538. 24s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1954.

THIS book can be recommended to medical students as an introduction to operative surgery. It is a series of demonstrations of operative procedures ranging from such items as the care of syringes to specialised major operations. A team of surgeons and theatre sisters are the contributors, and the book is divided into sections, each dealing with a particular speciality.

The descriptions are clear, concise and well illustrated. Possibly the most useful section is that on abdominal emergencies. Here there are well demonstrated cases such as the student sees at hospital emergency admissions. The section on endoscopic examinations is also very useful.

There might have been more attention paid to minor surgery and in the section on the limbs some mention of the hand would have been helpful. However, these are but minor criticisms of a very well-presented book which gives briefly and clearly the fundamental points of operative surgery. It should be a useful guide to both medical students, theatre sisters and nurses. R. P. S.